

**Senator David Vitter**

Senator Vitter is a Partner at Mercury Public Affairs. He served as a United States Senator from Louisiana between 2005 and 2017 and was Chair of the Senate Small Business Committee between 2015 and 2017. Additionally, he was active on the Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, Judiciary, and Budget Committees. While in the Senate, he crafted and passed major legislation including: the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, a landmark Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform that passed with historic, bipartisan support; the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA); and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act). Prior to joining the Senate, he represented Louisiana's 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district in the House of Representatives after having previously served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

**Alparslan Bayraktar**

Alparslan Bayraktar serves as the Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Prior to assuming this post, he was the Deputy Undersecretary of MENR following his service as the General Director of International Affairs and European Union. Between 2010-2016, he served as a Commissioner of Energy Market Regulatory Authority of Turkey. Before his public service, he worked for the private sector in Turkey and abroad. Mr. Bayraktar also holds positions in various international organizations involved in issues relating to energy governance. Mr. Bayraktar received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University, LLM in Law and Economics from Bilkent University and MA in International Relations from Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University.

**Robert Bensch**

Robert Bensch is CEO of Louisiana Natural Gas Exports and has decades of experience in the energy sector. Robert began his career as an analyst at Johnson and Company, a boutique capital markets advisory firm for the oil and gas industry. Since then, he has held positions at Box Energy, Torch Energy Advisors, Bellwether Exploration, Carpatsky Petroleum, and a number of other firms. In his current position, he has been instrumental in the facilitation of the upcoming LNG deal between Turkey and the US. He received his BS in Political Science and MA in Global Security from Arizona State University.

**Larry Kibler**

Larry Kibler is a Senior Vice President at H2 Brand Group, a leading national consumer products company with a growing portfolio of 19 brands with over 12,000 products representing 31 categories. He is also the Purchasing Director for Electrolux Major Appliances. Previously, Kibler has held positions at Tutco and Whirlpool Corporation. He received his BSME in Mechanical Engineering from Tri-State University.

**Hasan Pehlivan**

Hasan Pehlivan is CEO of Vitra Karo, the flagship brand of Eczacıbaşı, a leading Turkish industrial group. Vitra produces bathroom products as well as an extensive range of ceramic and porcelain tiles. In 2011, Pehlivan took charge of an international advisory network in 15 countries as Senior Advisor of the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency. Over the following four years, he contributed to research on energy, innovation, advanced technology and other fields. Pehlivan joined the Eczacıbaşı Group in January 2015 as Director of Business Development in the Eczacıbaşı Building Products Division. He received an undergraduate degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Bilkent University in 1994 and an MBA from Boğaziçi University in 2004.

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